



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 9 October 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here
http://www.dhs.gov/](http://www.dhs.gov/)

- An Atlanta Journal-Constitution investigation found that the staff of the 911 center in Fulton County, Georgia, has caused scores of mistakes in recent years that at times endangered those seeking help and the emergency crews sent to provide aid. (See item [42](#))
- According to Computerworld, Adobe Systems Inc. warned users Tuesday that hackers could use recently reported “clickjacking” attack tactics to secretly turn on a computer’s microphone and Web camera. Adobe rated the vulnerability as “critical,” its highest threat ranking. (See item [45](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 8, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. says Chinese firms welcome in its energy sector.** The United States would welcome Chinese investments in its oil and gas sector, an official with the U.S. Department of Energy said on Wednesday. “If they want to invest in our oil and gas sector, I can’t imagine we would have any objections,” the deputy assistant secretary in the department told Reuters on the sidelines of an oil conference in Cape Town.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSL840267520081008>
2. *October 8, Platts* – (National) **Teppco’s Ohio, U.S. terminal out of premium**

unleaded gasoline. U.S.-based independent pipeline operator Teppco said Wednesday its terminal in Lebanon, Ohio, had run out of premium unleaded gasoline. The company expects to resume supplying the product on the evening of October 21, the company said in a shippers' bulletin. Several parts of the U.S. Midwest and southeastern states have suffered refined product shortages recently. Trading sources attributed the shortages in part to the lack of supplies coming from the U.S. Gulf Coast states and to the credit crunch.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6974799.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/News&?undefined&undefined>

3. *October 7, Platts* – (National) **U.S. House draft climate bill would cut CO2 emissions 80% by 2050.** The jurisdictional committee in the U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday released a draft bill to cut greenhouse gases 80 percent from 2005 levels across the U.S. economy by 2050 through an emissions cap and allowance trading system. Under the proposal from the House Energy and Commerce Committee, sources required to meet the emission controls include power plants, petroleum and other fossil-based fuel producers and importers, large industrial facilities, natural gas local distribution companies and importers, and producers of other bulk gases. Emission limits would start at 6 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 then increase to 44 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 before tightening to 80 percent reductions.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6974614.xml?sub=Coal&p=Coal/News&?undefined&undefined>

4. *October 7, Reuters* – (Maryland) **U.S. allows Cove Point LNG expansion to continue.** Federal regulators said on Tuesday that the expansion of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal in Maryland could go forward after a U.S. appeals court halted the project in July on safety concerns. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decided to reissue its authorization of the expansion of Dominion Resources' Cove Point LNG terminal, but limit the amount of supply shipped to a local distribution company. WGL Holdings Inc.'s Washington Gas Light Company argued that the higher heat content of the LNG caused a 16-fold increase in leaks to its pipeline in Prince George's County, Maryland, in the two years after the company began receiving natural gas from Cove Point. FERC found that it could ease safety concerns by restricting deliveries to Washington Gas' system. "We anticipate that at some point in the future, we may be able to remove this restriction," FERC said. "However, in the meantime, the condition we impose will prevent unsafe leakage on WGL's system from occurring as a result of the terminal expansion."

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0745410020081007?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *October 8, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Chemical vapor cloud causes scare in Tulsa.** A chemical vapor cloud caused an area of Tulsa to be closed for about an hour Wednesday morning, but no injuries were reported. A hazardous materials team was called to investigate a chemical release at Brainerd Chemical Company. Employees were transferring hydrochloric acid from storage to a tanker truck when the chemicals reacted to moisture in the air and formed a cloud. The transfer was stopped and the cloud dissipated after several minutes. No traces of the hydrochloric acid were found remaining in the air, and the area was reopened.
Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?articleID=20081008_11_Ache842470
6. *October 8, Mansfield News Journal* – (Ohio) **Chemical smoke displaces 30 residents.** Nearly 30 Ashland County residents were displaced Tuesday morning after a bottle of muriatic acid caused a chemical release near Jeromesville. “We had a sanitation driver picking up residential trash, and along his route he picked up what turned out to be a bottle of muriatic acid,” said the director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency for the Ashland County office. The bottle started to smoke when the driver went to compact the trash, which he said is common for acid when it mixes with water and moisture. The truck was then moved about a half mile away, to a cemetery in the south end of the village on Ohio 89 for further examination. About 30 residents living 1,000 feet downwind of the baseball field near where the release happened were displaced. The two men riding in the truck suffered minor complications from the fumes. Both were treated at the scene.
Source: <http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081008/NEWS01/310080002>
7. *October 7, KARE 11 Minneapolis, St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **Road projects unearths old dump, chemical concerns.** Crews discovered an old dumpsite when they had to lower the grade of in Goose Lake Road in Champlin. Soil tests turned up relatively high levels of Mercury, Lead, and Selenium, chemicals that are hazardous to humans and animals in sufficient levels. Construction crews will complete the North and South ends of the project before the winter, but an 800 foot section that includes the dump will be covered by a synthetic mat for the winter, so cars can drive on it. In the spring, the mat will be removed and the hazardous materials and contaminated soil, dug up.
Source: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=526290&catid=2
8. *October 7, WKYX Kentucky* – (Kentucky) **Power outage causes chemical leak at Calvert City plant Tuesday.** Officials say a small leak of hydrochloric acid and a refrigerant from the Arkema industrial chemical plant in Calvert City confined residents to the south and west of Smithland to their homes and closed some roads for a few hours Tuesday. They say the leak was caused by a power outage around 11:30 Tuesday morning. A plant spokesman says there were no injuries or illnesses reported inside or outside the plant as a result of the leak, which lasted about 30 minutes. He said it is standard procedure to close roads and encourage residents to remain inside within a 5-mile radius of a plant when a chemical leak occurs.

Source: <http://www.wkyx.com/local-news-details.asp?NewsID=8032>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

9. *October 8, Rutland Herald* – (Massachusetts; Vermont) **NRC investigates shipment after concerns over radiation levels.** A shipment of lead-lined shielding from the Pilgrim nuclear plant in Massachusetts to its sister reactor Vermont Yankee in Vermont this weekend had higher-than-reported radiation readings and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Monday it was looking into the matter. The large box of lead shielding arrived at the Vermont reactor Friday night from Pilgrim; and when it arrived, the radiation measured on the box was two to three times what was measured at Pilgrim. Both plants are owned by Entergy Nuclear. The discrepancy was reported by Vermont Yankee officials. A Pilgrim spokesman said it was possible that the blankets shifted during shipping, affecting the radiation reading registered by technicians at Vermont Yankee. He said that the radiation levels were not above federal limits. A spokesman for the NRC had drawn no conclusions on the matter but was investigating the issue. “No workers were impacted or members of the general public,” he said.

Source:

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081008/NEWS02/810080331/1003/NEWS02>

10. *October 7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **Defective component that could potentially cause a substantial safety hazard.** The following information was received from the State of Massachusetts via email. Prompted by a reported event, QSA Global in Burlington, Massachusetts, conducted an investigation of a Model 660B camera. QSA Global concluded that the root cause of the event was a defective component on the pigtail of the camera, and has determined that more cameras contain these defective components which could contribute to future events. The defective component was reported to the State of Massachusetts. The defective component is a female source connector. This defect was only found in lot 0731300805. QSA sold six Co-60 sources and 659 Ir-192 sources that utilized connectors from this lot. One Co-60 source will be returned to QSA for evaluation due to a source retrieval event. Customers who had received the other five Co-60 source wires from the suspected lot were contacted and arrangements were made to make a field inspection of these sources by QSA Global staff for the potential defect. Any defective source wires would be recommended to the customer for return and replacement by QSA Global.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20081008en.html#en44536>

11. *October 7, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Mississippi) **Injured, contaminated individual transported to hospital.** At the Grand Gulf nuclear reactor in Mississippi, a contractor fell and was injured while working inside the condenser. He was working in a contaminated area and is being transported to a hospital. The individual’s protective clothing was slightly contaminated, but his body was not

contaminated. The State of Mississippi and Claiborne County are government agencies that have been notified of this incident. The individual's protective clothing read approximately 80 counts above background. The licensee is investigating the accident. The licensee notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission resident inspector.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20081008en.html#en44549>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

12. *October 8, Jane's* – (National) **Space-saving devices: Militaries look to make the most of commercial satellites.** The burgeoning use of commercial satellites by military forces over the past decade has led to rapid worldwide growth in the commercial satellite communications (satcom) sector. According to the U.S. Defense Information Systems Agency, growth in United States military satcoms during 2008 is projected at 24 percent: twice the increase recorded in 2007. The U.S. military's use of satellite bandwidth increased substantially after the two conflicts with Iraq (1991 and 2003) and the 11 September 2001 attacks, when demand for satellite capacity began to outstrip supply. The issue of bandwidth poses a challenge for all armed forces as the need for faster and more extensive communication networks means relying heavily on commercial satcom while awaiting the launch of their own, more secure, next-generation replacement systems.

Source: http://www.janes.com/news/defence/systems/idr/idr081008_1_n.shtml

13. *October 7, United Press International* – (National) **Secretaries call for nuclear updates.** The United States should replace its current inventory of nuclear warheads in order to maintain its nuclear deterrent capabilities, government officials say. A nuclear policy paper released last month by the U.S. defense secretary and the U.S. energy secretary says Congress must move forward with the currently delayed Reliable Replacement Warhead program to keep U.S. nuclear bombs in readiness, the Washington Post reported Tuesday. Without the moves, the secretaries said the United States would have to keep an inventory of older, non-deployed nuclear warheads in addition to the 1,700 to 2,200 Cold War-era warheads now spread out among its strategic bombers and intercontinental missiles.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/10/07/Gates_Bodman_call_for_nuclear_updates/UPI-65291223412992/

14. *October 7, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Army presses Lockheed to cut weight of big robot.** Top U.S. Army officials say they are continuing to press Lockheed Martin Corp. to reduce the weight of an unmanned ground vehicle that it is developing as part of the \$160 billion Future Combat Systems modernization program. The Multifunction Utility/Logistics and Equipment Vehicle (MULE) was supposed to weigh 5,000 pounds fully loaded, which would have allowed it to be transported strapped to the bottom of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, built by Sikorsky Aircraft, a unit of United Technologies Corp. But Lockheed says the vehicle's weight has grown to over 7,000 pounds, driven

higher by the Army's desire to add armor and increase the speed of the vehicle from 45 km/hour to 65 km/hour. The MULE has a separate engine drive for each of its four wheels, which makes it very agile and able to navigate tough, mountainous terrain.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0747780920081007>

15. *October 7, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. Air Force studying heavy-lift transport needs.**

The U.S. Air Force is heading a joint study to assess what kinds of aircraft the Pentagon will need in the future to ferry troops and equipment to the battlefield, but a top Army official on Tuesday said his service favors helicopters or other “vertical lift” aircraft.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0746538520081007>

16. *October 7, Defense News* – (National) **Combatives guru making hand-to-hand combat knife.**

The founder of the U.S. Army Combatives is creating a new fighting knife designed specifically for hand-to-hand combat. The director of the Combatives program at Fort Benning, Georgia, has teamed up with knife makers in a private venture to produce the LHR Combat Knife, a project that will be marketed by Gerber Legendary Blades next July. The current prototype features a 7-inch blade designed for thrusting and a molded plastic sheath with a custom “weapons retention” thumb release. The sheath will allow soldiers to access the knife quickly but prevent an attacker from snatching it away in a fight. The majority of soldiers purchase and carry their own fixed-blade knives into battle, but few if any, have ever used one in a fight based on 900 documented accounts of hand-to-hand fights in Iraq and Afghanistan. The main goal of the project is to make a quality knife that most soldiers can afford, the director said. The plan now is to market the knife for \$150 to \$200.

Source:

http://www.defensenews.com/osd_story.php?sh=VSDF&i=3761538&c=AME&s=LAN

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Banking and Finance Sector

17. *October 8, Reuters* – (International) **Fed, central banks cut rates.** Central banks around the world cut interest rates in unison on Wednesday in a joint response to the global financial crisis. The U.S. Federal Reserve said it was cutting its key federal funds rate by 50 basis points to 1.5 percent. U.S. stock index futures leapt on the news and world stock markets trimmed their losses.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE49542Y20081008>

18. *October 8, Financial Times* – (National) **FDIC to double fees in face of \$40bn loss.**

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on Tuesday proposed doubling the fees it charges U.S. banks, as it warned that it faced about \$40bn in losses from bank failures in the coming years. As of June 30, the FDIC's ratio of reserves to insured deposits stood at 1.01 per cent, the lowest since 1995 and well below the 1.15 per cent

mandated by law, requiring it to develop a plan to return to that level. The regulator is proposing fee reductions of 2 cents per \$100 for banks with a certain amount of unsecured debt, whose deposits are perceived to be less likely to be wiped out in the event of failure. There would be higher fees for banks with a certain amount of secured liabilities and brokered deposits, whose deposits are thought to be more at risk.

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/50ec1318-94c4-11dd-953e-000077b07658.html>

19. *October 7, Internet Retailer* – (National) **New data security standard adds flexibility and a few new requirements.** The latest version of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard adds some flexibility in the rules that govern the handling of credit and debit card data. Version 1.2 of the standard was issued last week by the PCI Security Standards Council. PCI is a common set of data security rules that payment card companies Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and JCB have adopted. The rules apply to any organization that handles payment card data, including online and offline retailers, banks and processors. The PCI standard is updated every two years by the PCI Security Standards Council, which maintains PCI and two other security standards.

Source: <http://www.internetretailer.com/dailyNews.asp?id=28041>

20. *October 7, U.S. Department of Justice* – (National) **Loan broker charged in \$15 million scheme to defraud the Export-Import Bank of the United States.** A loan broker from the Philippines has been charged in connection with a \$15 million scheme to defraud the Export-Import Bank of the United States (the Ex-Im Bank). The indictment charges that the Pilipino woman brokered approximately \$15 million worth of fraudulent loan transactions between companies located in the Philippines and U.S. lending banks, in which the Ex-Im Bank acted as guarantor or insurer. The woman has been charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and to commit offenses against the United States; three counts of submitting false statements to the Ex-Im Bank; one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering; three counts of money laundering; and one count of obstructing a proceeding before a department and agency of the United States. This case is part of a broader investigation into an \$80 million scheme to defraud the Ex-Im Bank between November 1999 and December 2005

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/loan-broker-charged-15-million/story.aspx?guid={195A630E-B9D6-4D04-9A02-7E367784FF5F}&dist=hppr>

21. *October 7, SC Magazine* – (National) **Economic woes fueling spam malware barrage.** Two monthly threat reports released this week show a sharp increase in emails containing malware. The rise appears to be bolstered by the current fiscal crisis, which is providing cybercriminals with fodder for their scam campaigns, according to MX Logic. The security firm said 5.14 percent of all emails in September contained malware, more than seven times the average and largest jump since February 2007, when the Storm Worm first appeared. Meanwhile, Symantec, in its October "State of Spam" report, said the amount of malicious code detected in emails rose from 0.1 percent in June to 1.2 percent in September, an increase of about 12 times. Experts partially attribute the nation's current financial state with the run-up in spam. MX Logic's threat center said it is observing an increase in fraudulent emails claiming to be

debt consolidation and loan offers. Meanwhile, U.S.-CERT warned Monday of a rise in phishing emails related to the recent bank mergers.

Source: <http://www.scmagazineus.com/Economic-woes-fueling-spam-malware-barrage/article/119152/>

22. *October 7, Consumer Affairs* – (North Carolina) **Bank data breach threatens 248,000 in North Carolina.** Nearly a quarter of a million North Carolina consumers have been affected by a recent data breach by the Bank of New York Mellon (BNY Mellon). The breach could subject 248,000 North Carolinians to potential identity theft. In May, BNY Mellon reported that it lost backup tapes containing personal information about 4 million consumers nationwide including 74,000 in North Carolina. The company has since discovered that the breach actually affected 12 million consumers. BNY Mellon is currently notifying North Carolinians whose information was lost. Some consumers who are contacted may not be familiar with the company, which is hired by public companies as a stock transfer agent or to handle corporate transactions.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/10/nc_mellon_corp.html

23. *October 6, IDG News Service* – (National) **Shell fingers IT contractor in theft of employee data.** Shell Oil Co. is warning its employees that an IT contractor used the personal data of four Shell workers as part of an unemployment insurance claims scam in Texas. Shell Oil, the U.S. subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell PLC, began notifying employees of the data breach on Friday, via a written notice that was posted on the Houston-based company's Web site. A Shell spokeswoman said company officials noticed early last month that someone had used Shell employee data to file fake unemployment compensation claims with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). After investigating, Shell determined that an employee of a third-party contractor had misused information stored in a corporate database. The database includes records for a majority of current and former Shell employees in the U.S. The notice about the breach indicated that the misused data included names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and some financial information.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9116421&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

24. *October 6, Reuters* – (National) **Airlines brace for credit-card processor demands.** In recent months, top carriers like AMR Corp's American Airlines and UAL Corp's United Airlines have topped off their cash positions or changed deals with credit-card processors – defensive moves triggered by fears that processors may demand bigger cash holdbacks. To limit the risk of failed reimbursement, processors often require airlines to put a percentage of their advance booking proceeds aside for use. Depending on its agreements with airlines, a processor that doubts the ability of an airline to provide travel or repay its debts may require a higher percentage of advance ticket revenue to be withheld.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0651996220081006?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

Transportation Sector

25. *October 8, Chicago Sun-Times* – (Illinois) **One-third of airport police jobs vacant.** More than a third of the Chicago Police positions at the city's two major airports are vacant, but officials say cops are helping to fill the gap by working overtime. The chairman of the City Council's Police Committee said there are a combined 77 vacancies at O'Hare and Midway airports. The figures were released during council hearings Monday on the \$2.5 billion plan to privatize Midway. Police sources said most of the vacant positions are regularly filled with off-duty officers getting overtime pay. They said public safety is not being compromised because of the vacancies. But they would not say how many of the positions are being filled with off-duty cops.
Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/1208656,CST-NWS-airports08.article>
26. *October 7, New York Times* – (National) **For air traffic trainees, games with a serious purpose.** Nearly two-thirds of the Federal Aviation Administration's 15,000 air traffic controllers will no longer be working by 2017 when they reach the mandatory retirement age of 56. That is no coincidence. Controllers were hired by the thousands in the early 1980s – in one recent 12-month period, only 13 were hired. As a result, the agency now must hire and train some 1,700 controllers a year for the next decade, a task the Government Accountability Office described as a major challenge.
Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/08/us/08controller.html?_r=1&oref=login
27. *October 7, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts) **Angry passenger flings foot powder, police say.** Boston police said a passenger who was angry because his flight was delayed tried to get back at the airline by throwing foot powder around the plane. A Framingham man was arrested Monday after the U.S. Airways flight from Las Vegas landed at Logan International Airport. The plane's captain told state police that after the plane landed, the man began throwing the white powder and said, "This is what your airline gets for treating me bad." When state police arrested the man, he allegedly had a 7-ounce container of foot powder.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27074134/>
28. *October 7, Arizona Republic* – (Arizona) **Officer fires shots at suspect at Sky Harbor airport.** An officer opened fire on a suspect at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on Monday night, officials said. At around 10 p.m. Monday night, Phoenix police officer noticed a suspicious man riding his bicycle near the airport's West Economy Parking Lot. The suspicious man was ordered to stop by the officer but refused. After the officer flashed his overhead lights, the man continued to ride his bicycle but fell off, and took off running toward the parking lot. The officer chased the man on foot who was holding a 9mm Smith and Wesson semi-automatic pistol and at one point aimed it at the officer, a police press release said.
Source:
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/2008/10/07/20081007abr-skyharborpolice.html>

Postal and Shipping Sector

29. *October 8, WHAM 13 Rochester* – (New York) **Suspicious mail puts Medina Hospital in lockdown.** The Medina Memorial Hospital and the Albion Post Office were locked down for about four hours Tuesday afternoon after a woman went to both facilities reporting that she felt ill after handling her mail. She had received the envelope in the mail, and later took it back to the Post Office. From there she was taken to the hospital emergency room, where officials carried out their emergency preparedness plan. Workers decontaminated everyone who came in contact with the woman. A Postal Inspector ran tests, and said the letter and its contents, a Verizon cell phone bill, turned out to be harmless. “There were no powders, no liquids, nothing like that associated with the piece of mail,” he said. The FBI is aware of the incident but said it was a local matter and did not get involved.

Source: http://www.13wham.com/mostpopular/story.aspx?content_id=d48e6c99-54b1-432e-b87a-1ae5eb90137a

30. *October 7, KMSP 9 Minneapolis-St. Paul* – (Minnesota) **\$500 reward offered in Chaska mailbox fire.** The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to an arrest in a mailbox fire in Chaska. According to Chaska police, the mailbox was set on fire around 8:10 p.m. Saturday night. A Chaska police officer noticed the burning mailbox just outside the post office. All pieces of mail in the mailbox were destroyed in the fire.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7595374&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

Agriculture and Food Sector

31. *October 8, Feedstuffs* – (National) **Regulations for genetically engineered organisms revised by USDA.** Tuesday the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service proposed to revise existing regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms under the Plant Protection Act (PPA) of 2000. The proposed changes will also improve regulatory processes so they are more transparent to stakeholders and the public, make more efficient use of agency resources and eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens. Under the proposed rule, certain GE organisms would be subject to the regulations if they could pose a plant pest or noxious weed risk, or their plant pest or noxious weed risk is unknown.

Source:

<http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=15313C6CADC345708FAA2684D32F0897>

32. *October 6, Packer* – (National) **FDA plans \$2.5 billion in upgrades nationally.** Seeking the ability to track foodborne illness outbreaks faster, the Food and Drug Administration plans to spend up to \$2.5 billion during the next decade to modernize its information technology, including data management, data warehousing, infrastructure and security. FDA selected 10 contractors to compete for orders during 10-year contracts. The agency already awarded three tasks totaling \$18 million to Interactive Technology Solutions, Silver Spring, Maryland.; Buccaneer, Warrenton, Virginia.; and Electronic Data Systems, Herndon, Virginia. Colorado, California and Ohio were given up to \$350,000 each for Food Emergency Response Network laboratories. That network integrates local, state and federal labs levels into a system that responds to emergencies involving contaminated food.
Source: http://www.thepacker.com/icms/_dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-15158-2.asp&stype=topnews&fb
33. *October 6, Packer* – (National) **Schools receive grants for food safety research.** Cornell University and four other U.S. universities have received federal government grants to study food safety in the fresh produce industry. They were among more than two dozen schools to receive about \$14 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study food safety, according to a USDA news release. Research at Cornell will focus on reducing the risk of contamination of fresh fruits and vegetables at the growing, harvesting, packing, transportation, retail and consumer levels. The goal of the project is to develop commodity- and food-chain-level-specific food safety best practices guidelines.
Source: [http://www.thepacker.com/icms/_dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-125422-126.asp&stype=handling\\$dist&fb](http://www.thepacker.com/icms/_dtaa2/content/wrapper.asp?alink=2008-125422-126.asp&stype=handling$dist&fb)

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Water Sector

34. *October 7, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **County health officials worry about cut in funding for water testing.** State funding for a program that monitors water contamination in San Mateo County's creeks and beaches has been cut by the governor of California, a loss health officials say could lead members of the public to come into contact with water containing dangerously high levels of E. coli. County officials learned of the \$35,000 budget cut this week as part of a million-dollar line-item veto the governor exacted on the state's entire ocean water-quality monitoring program, funded on a year-to-year basis. Without the weekly testing program at 38 creeks and beaches, the county will not be able to detect a problem before it is too late. The county posted bacteria contamination warnings October 1 at seven beaches and creeks that were found to contain fecal coliform levels exceeding state standards. No one will be able to follow up on those problem areas now that funding has been cut, nor will the county be able to gauge the impact of last week's rain in pushing bacteria out to beaches, as it is known to do, according to county health officials. The cuts were retroactive to July 1, which means the county is scrambling to find \$105,000 to cover the testing it has done since then.
Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10662939

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

35. *October 8, DB Techno* – (New York) **Medina Memorial Hospital in NY shut down, big scare.** The Medina Memorial Hospital in New York was shut down on Tuesday for about four hours due to a major scare. A woman developed a rash, as well as other symptoms after opening up a phone bill at her home. She arrived at the emergency room at the Medina Memorial Hospital, and was immediately isolated. The hospital staff proceeded to decontaminate all who came in close contact with the woman. It was later determined that there was nothing harmful in the envelope, or on the phone bill. Source: <http://www.dbtechno.com/health/2008/10/08/medina-memorial-hospital-in-ny-shut-down-big-scare/>
36. *October 7, ABC 30 Fresno* – (California) **Budget cuts to Fresno's health department.** The Fresno County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday to cut more than \$100,000 from the immunization clinic. While flu vaccines are available - getting them might be more difficult. The public health department director said, "We are going to eliminate two positions which means that if someone was to show up looking for immunizations, they may have to wait or may have to reschedule when there is an opening." Dangerous pathogens are tested in Fresno County's secure laboratory. Supervisors cut \$80,000 from the lab's budget meaning diseases like hepatitis, syphilis and diagnosing HIV will no longer be done there. Even deeper cuts are on the way as the county board of supervisors must still find more than a million dollars to take away from the health department. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=6437795>
37. *October 7, Homeland Security Today* – (National) **Some hospitals controlling HAIs through better monitoring.** Fourteen hospitals in 23 states that have some method of collecting and reporting Hospital Acquired Infections (HAIs) recently audited by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) "reported needing varying levels of funding and staff resources to implement and operate their initiatives." Similarly, in March, GAO told Congress "that federal activities have not effectively addressed the HAI problem. However, GAO's recent audit of hospitals found that "all hospitals that tracked [methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)] infection rates reported a decline in MRSA infections as a result of their initiatives." In its new report, GAO stated its audit found "the 14 hospitals with MRSA-reduction initiatives" it reviewed "all conduct routine testing for MRSA, although they chose different patient populations to test and used various testing methodologies. Three hospitals tested all patients for MRSA, while the remaining hospitals almost universally tested patients in adult or neonatal intensive care units." Source: <http://hstoday.us/content/view/5507/149/>

Government Facilities Sector

38. *October 7, Associated Press* – (California) **Navy blames crew, command for carrier fire.** A fire aboard the nuclear-powered USS George Washington aircraft carrier resulted from a failure to properly store hazardous materials and other missteps that allowed the fire to burn unchecked for more than eight hours, Navy investigators found. The report, released by the Pacific Fleet command, found that at least a month before the May 22 fire, the USS George Washington's chief engineer reported finding more than 300 gallons of flammable liquid improperly stored on the carrier. The report found the carrier's damage control team took nearly eight hours to discover the source of smoke and flames. By the time the team discovered the fire, it had burned thorough eight decks of the carrier and damaged 80 compartments. The Navy estimates the cost to repair the carrier is \$70 million. After making repairs in San Diego, the carrier has since moved to its new homeport in Japan.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27075524/>

39. *October 6, San Jose Mercury News* – (California) **Alameda delves into base contamination concerns.** City officials are girding for fresh clashes over the cleanup of toxic contaminants at the former Alameda Naval Air Station. One is over the cleanup of radioactive dirt and other potential contaminants at the site of a former landfill in the northwest corner of the shuttered Navy base. The second concerns possible contaminants left behind at the North Housing Parcel — land which could be used for housing and services for the homeless. The 42-acre parcel was declared surplus by the Navy in November. Federal law requires that homeless service providers get first choice on surplus military land. City Council members expressed concern about contamination that could still exist at the site, and they asked who will get stuck with the cleanup costs. They said the Navy did not clean up or even investigate possible contamination under buildings and roads — such “hardscape” occupies about a third of the site — or anything deeper than two feet in the ground. In 2003, the Navy removed nearly 113,000 tons of soil contaminated with polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons from the site, according to information on the state Department of Toxic Substances Control web site. The land's future owners will need to get written approval from regulatory agencies to dig deeper than four feet on the site or to do major work such as removing buildings.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/alamedacounty/ci_10655233

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Emergency Services Sector

40. *October 7, Business First of Louisville* – (Indiana) **FEMA opens Clark County disaster-response system.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency will open a disaster-response center in Clark County, Indiana, to assist residents who were affected by the September 14 windstorm that swept through the area. On Wednesday, FEMA will open a one-stop assistance center at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Charlestown. The center will include representatives of FEMA, as well as the Indiana Family and

Social Services Administration, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indiana Department of Insurance and Indiana Department of Health.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/stories/2008/10/06/daily12.html>

41. *October 7, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **South metro residents upset over ambulance outsourcing plan.** A plan to outsource ambulance and paramedic services is causing concern for some residents in three south metro communities. Nearly 800 residents of Apple Valley, Lakeville and Farmington (ALF) have signed a petition in hopes of persuading the Joint Powers Board that oversees ALF Ambulance to drop its plan to contract for service with North Memorial or Allina. Members of the community delivered the petition on Tuesday. The Joint Powers Board, which is composed of one city council representative from each of the three cities that operate and subsidize ALF Ambulance, is not expected to make a decision on the plan at least until its next meeting on October 28. Opponents of the plan say they already have a top notch service, and that residents value the relationship the paramedics have with the local police and fire departments.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/local/south/30576954.html?elr=KArks:DCiUHc3E7_V_nD_aycUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUU

42. *October 5, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Widespread problems found at Fulton 911.** The staff of Fulton County's 911 center has caused scores of mistakes in recent years that at times endangered those seeking help and the emergency crews sent to provide aid, an Atlanta Journal-Constitution investigation has found. A review of nearly five years of call-center disciplinary records reveals instances of insubordination, fighting, sleeping on the job, tardiness, and absenteeism. According to records obtained under the Georgia Open Records Act, during an almost five-year period, about 1,100 personnel actions have been taken against employees at the Fulton County 911 call center. Since 2003, nine workers have been fired.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/wireless/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/10/05/911_fulton_discipline.html

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Information Technology

43. *October 8, MX Logic* – (National) **Hackers hiding malware in JavaScript.** Hackers are using JavaScript to hide malicious code from web and email security filters, a Hewlett Packard researcher has claimed. Talking to Search Security, he explained that while hackers used to launch network security attacks using fairly straightforward delivery messages, they are now hiding malware within JavaScript apps that purposely obfuscates the code in order to allow it to slip through web and email filters. One of the popular attacks uses JavaScript apps to capture keystrokes. He added that using the coding platform is particularly lucrative because it can target Windows, Linux and Mac users.

Source: <http://www.mxlogic.com/securitynews/email-security/hackers-hiding-malware->

[in-javascript884.cfm](#)

44. *October 8, Computerworld* – (National) **Criminals using Google Trends to spread malware.** Internet criminals are using Search Engine Optimization (SEO) tactics to help spread malicious software, according to experts from Marshal's TRACE team. The criminals are using tools such as Google Trends to identify popular keywords, then setting up blogs on free hosting sites featuring these search terms. The blog sites feature what appears to be an embedded video player, which loads malware onto users' computers under the guise of installing a video codec. One recent example of an exploited search term is 'OJ Simpson Verdict'. While using fake media players to spread malware is nothing new, Marshal believes the use of SEO to promote the infected sites shows increasing sophistication on behalf of the criminals.
Source: <http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php/id;1948693341>

45. *October 8, Computerworld* – (National) **'Clickjackers' could hijack webcams, microphones, Adobe warns.** Adobe Systems Inc. warned users Tuesday that hackers could use recently reported "clickjacking" attack tactics to secretly turn on a computer's microphone and Web camera. Flash on all platforms is susceptible to clickjacking attacks, Adobe said in an advisory posted Tuesday. By duping users into visiting a malicious Web site, hackers could hijack seemingly innocent clicks that, in reality, would be used to grant the site access to the computer's webcam and microphone without the user's knowledge. "This potential 'clickjacking' browser issue affects Adobe Flash Player's microphone and camera access dialog," acknowledged the company's security program manager, in a post to Adobe's security blog. Although a patch is not ready, Adobe's advisory listed steps users can take immediately to block webcam and microphone hijacking. Adobe recommended that users access Flash's Settings Manager using a browser to select the "Always deny" option. Adobe rated the vulnerability as "critical," its highest threat ranking.
Source:
http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9116558&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

Nothing to report

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

46. *October 8, Times Tribune of Corbin* – (Kentucky) **Forest supervisor orders burning ban.** On Monday, a forest supervisor issued an emergency order that bans campfires outside of developed recreation areas of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The order prohibits “building, maintaining, attending or using fire, charcoal, or campfire outside of a developed recreational site.” In addition, the order bans all fireworks forest-wide. This order will remain in effect until further notice or up to 120 days.

Source: http://www.thetimestribune.com/local/local_story_282090856.html

47. *October 8, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Feds to use computer chips to foil cactus thieves.** Anyone thinking of swiping a stately saguaro cactus from the desert could soon be hauling off more than just a giant plant. National Park Service officials plan to imbed microchips in Arizona’s signature plant to protect them from thieves who rip them from the desert to sell them to landscapers, nurseries, and homeowners. The primary objective is deterrence, but the chips also will aid in tracking down and identifying stolen saguaros, said the chief ranger at southern Arizona’s Saguaro National Park. They typically can fetch \$1,000 or more.

Source: <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j21fI6Ys5AO7KqNsyZPqj-0CDcsQD93M60NG0>

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Dams Sector

48. *October 7, Houma Today* – (Louisiana) **Storm-topped levees undergo emergency repairs.** Levee officials are moving ahead with quick-fix plans to bolster Pointe-aux-Chenes and Dularge levees overtopped during the September hurricanes. Crews used machines to push dirt from the bottom of the 300-foot-wide levee to the top, adding another 2 feet to the top and providing additional protection to Pointe-aux-Chenes. The work cost \$50,000. The levee was breached during Hurricane Gustav at the spot where a pipeline crosses it. Crews temporarily closed the gap with 75 large wire-mesh baskets that are lined with a synthetic fabric, filled with sand and stacked to create barriers. The temporary fix held for Hurricane Ike. Crews are also using clay to repair a battered levee in lower Pointe-aux-Chenes that was overtopped during hurricanes Gustav and Ike. That project will take about two more weeks to finish and is expected to cost about \$300,000.

Source:

http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20081007/ARTICLES/810070287/1211/NEWS01?Title=Storm_topped_levees_undergo_emergency_repairs

49. *October 6, White Mountain Independent* – (Arizona) **Congress, Senate approve WMAT water loan legislation.** The U.S. Congress unanimously approved legislation authorizing a federal loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for the planning and engineering of a dam and reservoir to provide clean drinking water for the tribe. The legislation was introduced by a U.S. Senator in June and passed unanimously by the Senate on September 25. The White Mountain Apache Tribe is located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in eastern Arizona and has approximately 15,000 members. The majority of the reservation's residents currently receive drinking water from a small well field. According to the tribe, well production has significantly decreased over the last few years, leading to summer drinking water shortages. In order to meet the needs of the tribe's growing population, a proposed new dam and reservoir — the Miner Flat Project — located on the reservation is considered to be the best long-term solution to ensure an adequate drinking water supply. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Interior to provide a \$9.8 million federal loan to the White Mountain Apache Tribe for the planning, engineering, and design of the Miner Flat Project. The loan is repayable over a term of 25 years. The bill will now be sent to the U.S. president for his signature.

Source:

http://www.wmicentral.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20148364&BRD=2264&PAG=461&dept_id=581750&rft=6

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